THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) U.S.A.

(c) and (d) Advance licences under a Special Scheme have been given for import of 9,23,432 MTs of Soyabean by 31st August, 1995.

Reinforcing control on molasses

127. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reinforce control on molasses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of India Brand Promotion Fund

128. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to set up India Brand Promotion Fund (IBPF) to promote the image of the country as a supplier of quality goods and services worldwide;

(b) whether the fund will be managed by any Board to be constituted for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions of the Board and the criteria to be adopted for selecting its Chairman/Members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for establishing what may be termed as "India Brand Fund" which will focus attention on efforts to access new markets and improve the competitiveness of Indian products and services.

(b) and (c) The formation of "India Brand Fund" is still under consideration of the Government.

Efforts to balance export commitments and domestic requirements of Coffee

129. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being made to balance export commitments and domestic requirements of coffee;

(b) what is the estimated production of Coffee for the year 1995-96 and the target for export;

(c) what steps have been taken by Coffee Board to ensure availability of coffee for domestic market at affordable prices; and

(d) whether Government are keeping a watch on the crop prospects of coffee in Brazil, Columbia and far-eastern countries to formulate a realistic export strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In order to facilitate exports as well as domestic sales, the Govt. has allowed from 22nd April, 100% Free Sale Quota (FSQ) to small farmers having holding size below 10 hec. and 70% FSQ to others under which a grower has an option to sell his produce either in domestic market or export market. This has given adequate opportunity to meet export commitments by growers/exporters. At the same time, to ensure domestic availability, the Coffee Board is holding auctions and selling coffee through its outlets utilising coffee pooled with the Board. Govt has also put decaffeinated/roasted coffee on OGL which allows free import in case of domestic scarcity.

(b) As per pre-blossom estimates made by the Coffee Board, the production for 1995-96 is likely to be around 2,30,000 tonnes and the export target has been fixed at 1,50,000 tonnes.

(c) To ensure availability of coffee in the domestic market at affordable prices, Coffee Board has, with effect from 15th